MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN :

235. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,500 for travelling allowance to members of the Education Advisory Board

MR. V. K VELAPPAN NAIR :

236. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 45,600 for contribution to the Benares University and the Medical and Engineering Colleges, Madras, by Rs. 5.

MR. S. J. NAIR :

237. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 48,31,113 under Demand IV by Re. 1.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :

238. To reduce the total allotment of Rs 48,31,113 under Demand IV by Rs. 10.

MR. K. M. KRISHNAN :

239. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 48,31,113 under Demand IV by Re. 1.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI :

240. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 48,81,113 under Demand IV by Re. 1.

DEMAND V—LAND REVENUE.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 9,10,945 under Demand V—Land Revenue.

Motion No. 241.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : I rise to move :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,600 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

My object in moving this motion is to discuss the need for the stay of coercive proceedings adopted in the matter of collection of land tax and water cess.

MR. K KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : On a point of order. This motion relates to the travelling allowance. Can a question of policy be discussed ?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : I shall explain. If the Revenue Commissioner had properly travelled in all parts of the State, he would have come to the conclusion that coercive steps for the collection of revenue were not necessary.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : This argument is acceptable. But the difficulty is in regard to the wording adopted in the motion. You say, to discuss the need for the stay of coercive proceedings. If you had said that, to enable the Land Revenue Commissioner to find out these things, that would have been an acceptable proposition. Anyhow, that is your spirit, I think.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Yes, Sir.

From the Administration Report for 1110, it is seen the number of demand notices issued in 1108 was 7,08,083 : in 1109 it was 7,80,352; and in 1110, it is 7,93,001. In the matter of assessment, the number of demand notices issued has been on the increase year by year. Coming to the distraint, Sir, –

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : These are the figures which the Commissioner can find out when he remains at the headquarters.

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MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : So then, we find, there is an increase in the matter of issue of demand notices, distraint and attachment notices, and sale of movable and immovable properties. Again, it could be seen from the Administration Report that the average price the lands were fetching in auction was only very low. The average price of one acre of wet land was Rs. 59 and odd and that of dry land per acre was Rs. 24 and odd as against Rs. 69 and odd and Rs. 19 and odd respectively in 1109. It is found there is a fall in the price of agricultural products as also in the price of land. The rigours of the economic depression have not yet left our land. It is still continuing in a widespread condition. People are compelled to pay water cess and land tax. It could also be noticed that the cultivators are even now paying those taxes. That being the case, there is no necessity on the part of the department to have recourse to coercive proceedings in the matter of realisation of tax. By resorting to coercive methods, the people are compelled to undergo various difficulties.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Your suggestion is that, if the Land Revenue Commissioner moves about very frequently and makes a local inspection and investigation, such things wilnl'ot be needed.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Yes, Sir.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*) : I support the motion. When Mr. S. J. Nair moved an adjournment motion very recently in this House, the Land Revenue Commissioner said that, at the end of the year, an amount extending up to Rs. 9 lakhs will be in arrears. Even after the difficulty of the tax-payer is known to this House and the Government, I am told that coercive steps are being resorted to for the purpose of realisation of tax. My friend Mr. Varughese said that the economic depression is slowly drifting and the tax payers are in a position to pay the tax. But, so far as Chirayinkil, Nedumangad and a portion of Trivandrum are concerned, I submit that the economic depression has not lifted ; but it has come to stay. The people are still in great difficulties. They find it difficult even to earn their livelihood. So my submission is that the taxes that are still in arrears must be written off.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*) : I also support the motion. No long speech is necessary to convince the members of the House of the necessity of granting relief to the agriculturists by way of staying the coercive proceedings adopted in the matter of realisation of land tax. It is a legitimate concession to be given to the ryots.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Inome Tax Commissioer*) : Which concession is that please ?

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*) : To stay the coercive proceedings.

With respect to my constituency, Sir, I must say one word. Last year, extension of time for payment of tax was given, up to Vrischikam. Now taking steps to collect the tax of this year along with the arrears, is but simply adding fuel to the fire. It is not at all possible for the people to pay both the taxes in a lump sum. Therefore, I strongly suggest that some relief should be given in this direction. With these words, I support the motion.

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I also support the motion. I am persuaded to support this motion on another ground as well. The coercive proceedings have become more frequent in some parts of Central Travancore on account of the fact that the tax for the *Punja* lands is to be paid in Edavom. Usually the harvest will be over at the close of Medom and on the 15th Edavom the instalment date is fixed. With regard to Kandukrishi *Punja* lands. the date fixed is 15th Mithunom. Since 15th Edavom is fixed, the cultivators have not got sufficient time to sell their paddy obtained after harvest. Due to that fact, so many demand notices and attachment proceedings are necessitated. Though I realise the necessity for staying further proceedings for the recovery of revenue dues, I would draw the attention of the Government to the fact that, in case they postpone the instalment date for payment of tax for *Punja* lands from the 15th Edavom to the 15th Mithunom, there is a chance of bringing down the number of cases of arrears and giving a breathing time and sufficient facility for the cultivators to pay their tax without default. On these grounds, as well, I support the motion.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*): I wish to support the motion. I wish to refer to the tax realised by Government under the Kodayar Irrigation Project. There was a Government proceedings recently to say that the cultivators in the Kodayar Project area need not cultivate their lands directly fed by the channels owing to the scarcity of water in the Pachippara Reservoir. That being so, the people were obliged not to cultivate those lands. But they are now asked to pay the special water cess in addition to the land revenue on wet lands. I do not understand why this water cess should be collected when there was no water in the reservoir to feed the lands in the Kodayar Project area. The converted lands were left fallow on account of the proceedings in the Government Gazette. Therefore there is necessity to stay the coercive proceedings at least in regard to the water cess in 1111. I understand that the question of remission is now before Government and till the final decision on that legitimate demand is arrived at coercive proceedings must be stopped. There is no justification in resorting to coercive measures.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income-tax Commissioner*): Sir, as the House will remember, this question of stopping all coercive processes for the collection of revenue was discussed only a short while ago. I then explained how the stoppage of coercive processes would not be beneficial to the ryots. Now my friend Mr. S. J. Nair has brought up the question again for discussion.

Sir, the stoppage of coercive processes was allowed towards the end of last year. This House, I believe, made a demand for it; and the Government accepted that demand and ordered the stoppage of coercive acts about the middle of Karkadagom and the result has been not beneficial either to the Government or to the ryots. On the Government side, the year closed with a heavy amount under arrears. The amount of arrears at the close of the year was over Rs. 9 lakhs against about

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Rs. 6 lakhs at the end of the previous year. I may inform the House that, according to the latest figure that I have got, a fairly large part of this Rs. 9 lakhs still remains uncollected. It has not been beneficial to the ryots also for, as my friend Mr. Krishna Pillai, the member for Neyyattinkara, has said, he is now obliged to ask for a repetition of the stoppage of coercive process this year on the ground that it was allowed last year; and therefore if the coercive processes are not stopped this year also, the ryots will have to pay double the amount of tax.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): Is not the condition of Neyyattinkara special?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That question does not arise. If coercive process is stopped, double payment will have to be made. That is his point.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income-Tax Commissioner*): That is my point, Sir. What the member for Neyyattinkara has said is true of all taluks. If you once give a concession like that, as a matter of fact, I do not call it a concession, unless you do it again and yet again, the ryots will be put to the necessity of paying one more year's arrear tax *i. e.*, double the amount of tax that he would otherwise have to pay. That is a very serious objection to the stoppage of coercive processes. I can understand the position taken up by my friend Mr. S. Nilakanta Pillai, the member for Chirayinkil. He demands not only the stoppage of coercive processes but also the writing off of all arrears. That is a question which does not arise in connection with this motion. Therefore I am not now dealing with that. That position, at any rate, is a logical position. That would benefit the ryots to the extent of the remission granted. But if Mr. S. J. Nair's request for stopping the coercive processes is granted, it will add to the difficulties of the ryots and the Government will have greater difficulty in collecting the revenue. The arrears which were Rs. 9 lakhs at the close of 1110 might come to a much larger amount at the close of 1111.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*): May I know whether any final orders have been passed on the question of fallow remission for the Kanni crop of 1111?

MR K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): If the member will allow me some more time, I will answer it. Now I am dealing with another question.

What will happen if an order is issued today to all the Tahsildars and Proverthicars to stop all the coercive processes? They have proceeded a long way towards the collection of the arrears. Now they must have reached the stage of attachment and sale of properties. If an order is now issued, everything will come to a standstill. In that case, what is going to happen? If coercive processes are stopped, a large number of people who are able and willing to pay their taxes will not pay them. Even those people who have come to the Pakuthi Cutcherries to pay their taxes would go back without paying them if they know that the coercive processes are going to be stopped. Many people who are

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[Mr. K. George.]

able to pay their taxes are only waiting to know whether they are going to get the concession this year also. That is rather hard on the collecting authorities; and it is not beneficial to either the defaulters or to any one else.

I may also say that this year there has been a slight improvement in the prices of our commodities as compared with the previous year's prices. By that I mean that the ryots' condition has slightly improved this year.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanacherry* cum *Peermade II*) : May I know the price of which commodity has risen in value?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Paddy and cocoanut.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanacherry* cum *Peermade II*) : Does the member know that the number of cocoanuts has very much decreased?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): That is what the people say. I cannot vouch for it until I see the report of the Agricultural Department regarding the Volume of output.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanacherry* cum *Peermade II*) : May I know the price of pepper this year?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Pepper is the only produce which has fallen in price, as compared with last year.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanacherry* cum *Peermade II*) : May I know the price of ginger?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You cannot expect the member to give a list of prices of all articles produced in the State.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I am speaking only of the staple products.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : Has ginger been taxed by the Government?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : No.

Sir, when I spoke on the subject on the last occasion, I tried to show that all the sales notification in the Gazette would not reach the last stage. Although there are a large number of demand notices, the percentage of attachment is very small.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The important point raised is that the Land Revenue Commissioner should travel more frequently. What has the member to say about that?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I cannot really connect the two. Whether I travel much or I do not travel. I cannot find a connection between the two, Sir. Whether I travel or not, I have got all the information regarding coercive processes in my office; and travel will not improve my knowledge in regard to this point.

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MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*) : May I know whether in that case the motion is in order?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The motion is in order.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : I shall now proceed to answer the points raised by Mr. Asan and Mr. Easwara Pillai.

As regards the payment of *Medapoo* tax, the present rule is that it should be paid in Edavam. Some time ago, a representation was made that the tax should be collected in two instalments, in Edavom and Mithunom. After some consideration, Government decided that the date of payment of tax may be postponed to the tenth of Mithunam. That order was in force as an experiment for two years. I do not think that experiment now continues. However, I am prepared to examine the question and make the necessary recommendation to Government. But this year we cannot do it. If at all any change is made, we can make it only in the next year.

Then I come to the question raised by Mr. Easwara Pillai, the member for Kalkulam. The position about granting remission in—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I think the member need not say anything, because, according to him, travelling does not improve the position one way or the other. There are other motions under which that may be discussed.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum Rural*) : What is the amount of arrears according to the latest figures?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : I have not got a later figure than what I have already supplied

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*) : Sir, my question has not been answered.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Sir, it requires a fairly long explanation.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : An explanatory answer which is long cannot be allowed at this stage.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : The answer given by the Land Revenue Commissioner on behalf of Government does not show that he is going to consider the question sympathetically but on the other hand——

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The Land Revenue Commissioner has stated that the travelling does not affect the matter and he said certain other things also on the merits.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : The Land Revenue Commissioner is very particular to have the whole pound of flesh and nothing less from the tax payer. He is not prepared to show at least lip sympathy. This is evident from the reply to the motion that was made in this House. So I press the motion.

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): If he wanted only lip sympathy, I could have given that.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The difficulty is that Governments have no lip sympathy.

The motion was put to vote and lost.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, I demand a poll.

A poll was taken with the following result: —

AYES—19.

1	Mr.	A. S. Damodaran Asan	11	Mr.	Pacode A. Narayana Pillai
2	,,	A. Easwara Pillai (*Kalkulam II*)	12	,,	S. Nilakanta Pillai
3	,,	K. R. Elenkath	13	,,	Edavanatt S. Padmanabha Menon
4	,,	S. J. Nair	14	,,	Kainikkara M. Padmanabha Pillai
5	,,	Pottayil S. Krishna Panickar	15	,,	R. Sivaraman Nair
6	,,	N. K. Krishna Pillai	16	,,	M. Sivatanu Pillai
7	,,	T. Krishna Pillai	17	,,	A Thanu Pillai
8	,,	K. M. Kuriakose	18	,,	V. K. Velappan Nair
9	,,	P. C. Kuriyan	19	,,	T. P. Velayudhan Pillai
10	,,	K. Mahomed			

NOES—24

1	Mr.	C. V. Chandrasekharan	15	Rao Bahadur	Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai
2	,,	S. Chattanatha Karayalar	16	Mr.	E. K. Kunjuraman
3	,,	R. Dhanukoti Pillai	17	,,	C. O. Madhavan
4	,,	Antony George	18	,,	G. Nilakantan
5	,,	K. George	19	,,	N. K. Padmanabha Pillai
6	Miss	Hepzibah Gnanasikamony	20	,,	Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai
7	Mr.	S. Jayantan Nambootiri	21	,,	R. Pitchu Aiyengar
8	,,	N. John Joseph	22	Rao Bahadur	A. Rengaswami Aiyar
9	,,	J. M. Joseph	23	,,	T. C. Thommen
10	,,	T. C. Joseph	24	,,	John Whitely Tolson
11	,,	N. Kesava Panicker			
12	,,	T. T. Kesavan Sastri			
13	,,	K. M. Krishnan			
14	,,	K. P. Krishna Menon			

NEUTRALS—12.

1	Mr.	N. Abdur Rahiman Sahib	6	Mr.	K Kunjukrishna Pillai
2	,,	T. K. Alexander	7	,,	K. Madhavan
3	,,	V. T. Chacko	8	,,	M. K. Madhavan Pillai
4	,,	A. Easwara Pillai (*Kottarakara*)	9	,,	K. A. Narayana Pillai
5	,,	Puthupalli S. Krishna Pillai	10	,,	V. Ramakrishna Panickar
			11	,,	R. Raman Pillai
			12	,,	N. E. Varughese

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The result is 19 for, 24 against and 12 neutral. The motion is lost.

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Motions 242 to 260.

The following motions lapsed as they were identical to the previous one :—

MR. S. J. NAIR :
242. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,600 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI :
243. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,600 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI .
244. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,600 for travelling allowance by Re. 1

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI :
245. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,600 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI :
246. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,600 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI :
247 To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,600 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI :
248. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,600 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR :
249. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,600 for travelling allowance by Rs 5.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON :
250. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,600 for travelling allowance by Rs. 5.

MR. K. MAHOMED :
251. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,600 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

MR. A S. DAMODARAN ASAN :
252. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,600 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB :
253. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,600 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN :
254. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,600 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN :
255 To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,600 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN :
256. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,600 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH :
257. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,600 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE :
258. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,600 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH :
259. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,600 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR :
260. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,600 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

Motion. No. 261.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Sir, I move :—

That the allotment of Rs. 22170 for Land Revenue and Income tax Commissioner be reduced by Re. 1.

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[Mr. S. J. Nair.]

Sir, the object of my motion is to discuss the need for granting remission of 50 per cent. land tax and water-cess for the year 1111.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanacherry I*): Is it for 1111, or 1112?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I find 1111 printed here.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Let it be 1111 or if the Chair would permit me, I am willing to correct it as 1112.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: What was your intention?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): 1111, Sir.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: So you want to apply this only to outstanding cases. There is that, difficulty that if it is 1111, it can relate only to a few cases. So I leave it to you to decide as to whether it should be 1111 or 1112.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): I may be permitted to correct it as 1112.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You say it was due to a clerical error that the mistake crept in and you make a statement to the House that you intended to put down 1112.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Yes, Sir.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I accept your statement; you may correct yourself.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, it is admitted by Government in all their records and it is also a known fact to all, that the economic depression set in 1105 and year after year it has been continuing and the condition of the people of the State has not in any way improved at all. Prices of the agricultural products have fallen very very low. The monsoon has failed on various occasions and people are suffering like anything; and I know instances in which without getting a drop of water the agriculturists have been compelled to pay water-cess for the lands for several years. I myself have taken the Land Revenue Commissioner, upon the orders of Government, for the inspection of such sites in the Nedumangad taluk.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is it with regard to water cess?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Yes, Sir.

The Land Revenue Commissioner was convinced that the people were not at all benefited as a result of the levy of water-cess for the tank or *chira*. He himself told the Tahsildar of the locality to write off the amount and if I understand correctly, the recommendation is pending with the Government. There are various instances in which water-cess is levied, unnecessarily levied.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): It is not water-cess, but irrigation contribution.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is what I wanted to ask. I could not understand water-cess in Nedumangad.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, it is irrigation cess or let it be any cess or any contribution. Anyhow, it is payment for water, without water being supplied.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You correct yourself. It is not water-cess, but irrigation contribution.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Yes, Sir. Let it be irrigation contribution.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That will be correct. So, you want the year 1111 to be changed to 1112 and you want further the word cess to be changed to contribution. Very good, go on.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Is there not water-cess in other parts of the State?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): There is. So my motion stands as it is. I am not prepared to move any amendment.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: So you are prepared make a note of the fact that water-cess is paid in different parts of the country but as a matter of fact those people are not getting water in time and in sufficient quantity for cultivation. In spite of that, they are compelled to pay water-cess.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Yes, Sir. Moreover we know that the people have been attacked by various sorts of diseases such as Plague in Alleppey, Malaria in Kottarakara, Nedumangad and Neyyattinkara and other diseases in South Travancore. We know that there is universal suffering for the people either due to famine or due to poverty or due to absence of monsoons or due to the visitations of various diseases in the State.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: May I know from Mr. Nair how many times he is prepared to state the same fact in the course of the same speech?

MR. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, I want to emphasise the fact that, owing to the callousness on the part of the Government, owing to absence of sympathy on the part of the Government, even the coercive process, in the matter of the collection of Tax have not been stopped or abated in spite of repeated requests. Even for the year 1111 we find that, in certain taluks of certain divisions, some sort of remission was granted. But it was not at all granted universally. Even in Trivandrum Division, certain taluks and certain *pakuthies* were granted remission. The same concession was not granted to Nedumangad taluk and certain *pakuthies* in Chirayinkil taluk. As a matter of fact, people of Nedumangad taluk are suffering like anything. Their suffering is more serious and more acute than the suffering of people in other parts of the State. Still no concession or remission was granted. So in the interest of the people of the State, the poor, humble, agriculturists in the State, it is absolutely necessary that a remission of 50 per cent. land tax and water-cess be granted throughout the State. I move that the motion be accepted by the House.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): I also rise to support the motion. The pros and cons of this important question have been discussed in detail in diverse forms on the floor of the House and I do not think any more arguments are necessary. The only argument on our side is that the people are unable to pay the tax. Sir, the swelled

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[Mr. T. Krishna Pillai.]

and swelling pages of the *Gazette* will be proof possitive for this. The happening of a series of unexpected and unforeseen circumstances has aggravated the position of the tax-payer. Sir, we are so loyal and law-abiding that all of us have a mind to pay the tax, but the only difficulty is we have not the means ; and it is rather unfortunate that a patriotic and experienced officer as the learned Land Revenue Commissioner should say that the people are able to pay tax.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The question of Mr. George's personal experience does not arise. It is on behalf of Government that he says that. Mr. George's personal feeling may be different.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): Two objections that may be raised by the Land Revenue Commissioner are firstly that this would entail a heavy fall in the Government revenue and secondly whether this would after all be of substantial benefit to the people at large. Sir, as for the first objection, I would answer it by emphatically repeating our cry for retrenchment. Sir, we cry hoarse for retrenchment not because we consider the salary of officers as a gold mine—to borrow the words of the learned Land Revenue Commissioner himself—which would be an effective panacea for all our troubles and tribulations, but we feel, that at this critical and crushing period of our life, we are not able to pay such high salaries. Further, Sir, it is the accepted canon of practical politics that, to combat a negative, we must meet it with a positive.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Your idea is that the amount liberated by retrenchment may be utilised for this.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): Yes, Sir. Also, Sir, I think it is an accepted canon of practical politics that, to combat a negative, we must meet it with a positive. And now when there is absolute negation of income on the part of the impoverished tax-payer, I would submit that it must be met by the positive profusion of our public servants. I may, in conclusion, submit that this time at least, when we demand for 50 per cent. reduction of land tax, it must be 50 per cent, whole and entire, and not 12½ per cent. or 15 per cent.

With these few observations, I support the motion.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Sir, I rise to support the motion. In the budget estimate for the next year, it is found that Rs. 38 lakhs could be collected under Land Revenue. In the revised estimate for 1111, we find that, in spite of all the coercive processes and the rapidity with which measures were adopted by Government, Government collected only Rs. 35 lakhs. Now, in the year 1110, when it was only Rs. 30 lakhs, I am at a loss to know how the economic position of the cultivators has improved or how the Government expect that their positition will improve next year in order to give them the hope that such a huge amount would be collected next year. Government do not even hesitate to point out that a small fraction at least is expected to be unrealised and make a reduction on account of that.

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So, it looks as though the Government do not intend to allow any remission for the next year.

Sir, the people of south Travancore are, in general, very heavily burdened with taxes, compared with the people of the other parts of the State. The average tax, per acre of wet land in South Travancore, comes to about Rs. 25.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : What do you mean by "South Travancore" Mr. Elenkath ?

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : Nanjanad and Edanad, Sir.

So far as my constituency is concerned, the tax is Rs. 16 per acre, on an average. In Nanjanad, there are some lands for which the assessment is as high as Rs 30 per acre, in addition to water cess of Rs. 9 per acre for lands converted under the Kodayar Project.

Sir, a comparison of the nature of the soil of our lands in Nanjanad and the lands in the neighbouring Tinnevelly District for instance, would show that there is not much difference in the soil, in productivity. There is, therefore, absolutely no justification for this kind of over-burdening of the ryots of Nanjinad. But, Sir, it was the fault of the authorities responsible for the last Settlement; up-to-date methods of ascertaining the productivity of the soil were not available in the days of the last Settlement. But, it has been recognised, even by our administrators, more than once in the past, that Nanjanad and Edanad are over-burdened with taxes. That being the case, and in view of the fact that conditions have not improved and we are not in any way sure of getting a bumper crop in the coming year, we cannot but press upon the Government the need for a substantial remission of land tax and water cess.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Sir, I wish to add a few words in support of the motion.

The Official member may, in all probability, take advantage of the fact that the mover has, with the permission of the chair changed the year "1111" in the motion to "1112", and argue that, if the people get a bumper crop next year, they should not ask for any remission. Sir, I am anticipating that argument for the official side. I say in reply, Sir, that, due to drought during the last 2 or 3 years, all the ryots in the country have incurred heavy losses. All that they spent on cultivation, they had to lose.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*) : What about the current year ?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovla*): I shall come to that.

Last year, the Government published a notification in their *Gazette*, by way of warning, that there was only very little water in the Pechipara Reservoir, that that might not suffice even for the lands which had already been cultivated, and that therefore the lands in which cultivation had not been started till then should not be brought under cultivation depending on Pechipara water. Sir, in spite of such notification, which the Government published of their own accord, Government have instructed their officers to assess also those lands,

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[Mr. M. Sivatanu Pillai.]

which were left fallow on account of the Government Notification, to land tax. Government themselves did not want these lands to be cultivated, because they did not have enough water in their Reservoir; still, they want tax for these lands, although they themselves knew full well that crops could not be raised on these lands.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There is just one important point on which the whole discussion may turn. The Government Notification said that Pechipara water would not be available for lands which had not till then been brought under cultivation. Or, did it say that the lands should not be cultivated?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Sir, when the lights are put out, we need not invite darkness. (*Laughter.*)

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I just give you the chance of meeting that argument which may be raised against your argument regarding the Notification. It appears to me that every *pattadar* is bound to pay the tax on his land. The Kodayar Project affords only additional irrigation facilities for a better crop. Merely because such additional facility was not available in a particular year, can it be an argument for exoneration from the payment of the original tax which the *pattadar* was paying even prior to the Kodayar Project?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Sir, the Notification clearly said that crops should not be raised, since there was not enough water in the Reservoir.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Is there not a separate cess, of one rupee per acre, even for *Ayacut* lands, for the Kodayar water?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I do not think that needs any answer from me; because it is well known that, for the supply of water from the Kodayar Reservoir, there is a cess of Rs. 7 per acre in the case of conversions, and Re. 1 per acre in the case of *Ayacut* lands.

Sir, the Government notified that the people should not make any attempt whatsoever to raise any crop on these lands, because there was not enough water in the Pechipara Reservoir; the people were compelled to leave the lands fallow. What is the meaning of the Government now asking the people to pay tax on such lands which were lying fallow in Kanni 1111? Sir, representations have been made to the Government on this matter; and I understand that they are engaging the attention of the Government. I hope Government will expedite the disposal of the matter.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): Sir, I also support the motion. The question of remission of land tax and water cess is not new to this House. It was considered by this House and decided on even at the very commencement of this Assembly. In the year 1109, this question was discussed by this Assembly, and the Government accepted the need for the remission of a certain percentage of the tax on wet lands, and water cess. The question came up again in 1109, and the Government recognised the need for even greater remission

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than in 1108; tax on all lands, wet and dry alike, was reduced by a certain percentage. Now, Sir, in the current year also, Government have decided to grant the remission of a percentage of the tax on dry lands. Sir, once the Government accept the need for granting remission, I fail to see why they do not make allowance for that in their Budget estimates. They shut their eyes to the needs of the people. I should think that, if the representatives are not on the alert, and if they do not propose and carry out motions or resolutions in this House, the Government would not do anything for the people.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You are, obviously, in a land of fiction, Mr. Varughese. There is this House; there are honourable members here, who will give notice of motions and resolutions whenever necessary. You are arguing on a state of affairs which do not exist.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kottarakara*). Has there been any undertaking by the Government that they would remit the land tax year after year?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): I did not refer to any such undertaking, Sir. My only point was that, once the Government had conceded the need for remission of tax, knowing that the conditions in the country have not improved, they should have anticipated their income under Land Revenue only after providing for a certain percentage of remission.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): So far as the member's constituency is concerned, is the present crop very successful?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): I am coming to that.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You cannot come to that; you have no time. (*Laughter*).

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): Conditions have not improved at all. In my constituency, conditions are much worse this year than in the previous years.

MR. K. M. KRISHNAN (*Ambalapuzha II*): സർ, ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ ഞാനും അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. ലാൻഡ് റവന്യൂ കമ്മീഷണർ അവർകൾ കഴിഞ്ഞ മാണ്ടത്തെ അപേക്ഷിച്ച് നാളികേരത്തിനും നെല്ലിനും ഈയാണ്ടിൽ വില കുറഞ്ഞുണ്ടെന്ന് പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. എന്നാൽ ജനങ്ങളെ സാരമായി സഹായിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം വില കുടിയിട്ടില്ലെന്ന് അനുഭവക്കാർക്ക് അറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. നാളികേരത്തിന്റെ വില സാരമായി കൂട്ടുന്നതുവരെ 50 ശതമാനം കരത്തിൽ ഇളവു ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നാണ് എന്റെയും അഭിപ്രായം. നാളികേരത്തിന്റെ വില ഈ അടുത്തകാലത്തെങ്കും കുറഞ്ഞതിനുള്ള ലക്ഷണമില്ല. കൊളമ്പു കൊപ്രാ ഇന്ത്യയിൽ, വിശേഷിച്ചു തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ, ധാരാളമായി വന്നുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നിടത്തോളംകാലം നമ്മുടെ കൊപ്രാക്കു വില കൂടുതൽ കിട്ടുന്നതെ

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[Mr. K. M. Krishnan.]

ങ്ങിനെയാണ്? എപ്പോൾ കൊപ്രായുടെ ഇറക്കുമതിച്ചുങ്കം കൂട്ടുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു സാധിക്കുന്നുവോ അപ്പോൾ മാത്രമേ നാളികേരത്തിനു ശരിയായ വില കിട്ടുകയുള്ളൂ. ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറു സർവ്വ വിധമായ ശക്തിയും ഉപയോഗിച്ചു ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെക്കൊണ്ടു കൊളമ്പു കൊപ്രായ്ക്കുള്ള ഇറക്കുമതിച്ചുങ്കം കൂട്ടിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. അതു വരെ കൊളമ്പുകൊപ്രാ ഇങ്ങോട്ടു വന്നുകൊണ്ടേയിരിക്കും. നമ്മുടെനാളികേരത്തിനു വിലയിടിഞ്ഞു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യും.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): ഇപ്പോൾ കിട്ടുന്ന നാളികേരത്തിന്റെ എണ്ണം തന്നെ വളരെ കുറവല്ലേ?

MR. K. M. KRISHNAN (*Ambalapuzha II*): വാസ്തവമാണ്. മുൻപു കിട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടിരുന്നതിൽ പകുതി കിട്ടുന്നില്ല ഇപ്പോൾ. കഴിഞ്ഞ കുറെ കൊല്ലങ്ങളെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചു ഈയാണ്ടിൽ നാളികേരത്തിന്റെ എണ്ണം വളരെ കുറവാണ്. ഉള്ളതിനോ വിലയുമില്ല. സ്ഥിതിഗതികൾ ഇങ്ങിനെയിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ കരത്തിൽ അൻപതു ശതമാനം കുറവു ചെയ്യണമെന്നുള്ള ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഈ അപേക്ഷ ന്യായമായതും നീതീകരിക്കാവുന്നതും ആയിട്ടിരിക്കുന്നതേയുള്ളൂ.

The Assembly adjourned at 5 P. M. to meet again at 11 A. M. on the next day.

K. MADHAVA KURUP,
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.

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